

AMENDMENTSIn the Specification:

Please replace the three consecutive paragraphs on page 4, beginning on line 20, with the following re-written paragraphs:

--Fig. 8 is a microphotograph of an esophageal stent-graft taken from one end, prior to collapse thereof for loading into a delivery apparatus.

Fig. 9 is a microphotograph of an esophageal stent-graft taken from one end following collapse thereof, without having first been altered according to the present invention.

Fig. 10 is a microphotograph of an esophageal stent-graft taken from one end following collapse thereof, having first been altered according to the present invention.--

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 9, prior to the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 9:

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--Figs. 8-10 are microphotographs of an esophageal stent-graft taken from one end, to illustrate the advantage provided by the alteration process of the present invention. Fig. 8 shows a covered esophageal stent-graft prior to collapse thereof for loading into a delivery apparatus. Fig. 9 is a microphotograph of an esophageal stent-graft following collapse thereof, without having first undergone alteration, while Fig. 10 is a microphotograph of an esophageal stent-graft following collapse thereof, having first been altered according to the present invention. It is apparent from the microphotographs that the covering of the altered stent-graft in Fig. 10 collapses in a much more uniform and compact manner than does the covering of the unaltered stent-graft in Fig. 9. As stated above, this uniform and compact collapse is advantageous for a number of reasons, including providing a smaller resultant profile for the stent-graft, which leads to a reduction in complications in the delivery process.--
